

Alabama Emmaus Community News

The Grapevine

Vol. 11 No. 3

June 2013

Community Humble Servants

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Lay Director

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Spiritual Director

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Asst. Lay Director

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Don't let life's daily concerns threaten to take your 'priesthood'

By **BILL SMITH**
Lay Director

Do you sometimes catch yourself acting in a less-than-Christian way? I know I do, more times than I would like to admit. Much the same as the apostle Paul, we all have a thorn in our side. Some say Paul was referring to his health, maybe bad eyesight. Others suggest he was concerned about his inability to leave behind worldly attitudes, actions and desires.

Paul did not claim to be perfect, but he did strive to be the best representative of Christ he possibly could be. As we learn during the "Priesthood of all Believers" talk, we are all priests. As such we should strive to be the best representative of Christ we possibly can be. We should live our daily lives in a way that would make us worthy to be called priest.

A few Sunday afternoons ago, as I sat in Hutto Auditorium listening to pilgrims summarize their weekend, I was amazed at the fire in their hearts for the love of God. They were energized to go out and help others experience the grace and unconditional love of God.

In the past few days they had not only heard about God's love, they had experienced it through the actions of hundreds of Gods people most of whom they will never see or meet. They did get a glimpse of some as they walked by during Candlelight. Yes, their hearts were on fire for the Lord.

They knew God loved them, and they loved the Lord. They were going to make a change in their lives and in their small piece of the world. We have all been there, we have all felt the desire to help others.

Where is your fire?

Is it still aglow or is it down to an ash covered ember? I will venture to say since you are reading this article, it is not an ash covered ember. But, could you do a little better?

As Priest we are called to show the spirit of Christ through our actions. Then, when asked, to vocally express our understanding of God's love. The problem so many of us have is lip service not supported by our actions. We have all heard the maxim: "Christians read the Bible and non-Christians read the Christians."

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Staying true to 'Emmaus'

By **JONTHAN WATTS**
Spiritual Director

Over the past few years I have enjoyed the discipline of writing. My first book was *Gospeltelling to a Digital Culture* written specifically for those entering ministry without the benefit of a seminary education. Later, I wrote *Battle Lines of Worship: Finding a Place of Truce and Trust* which first followed the development of worship from Genesis to the present. And second, addresses the constant murmuring within churches between those who worship in the "traditional/classical" style and those who worship in the "contemporary" style. I decided to add an addendum to that work specifically for people who call themselves United

Methodist. Here is how I begin that work:

I had the honor of sitting under the tutelage of the late Bishop William R. Cannon. Bishop Cannon taught classes in Early Methodist History and The Life and Theology of John Wesley at Candler School of Theology, Emory University. This man of tall stature would stride into the classroom with a folder of notes, a class roll, and dressed as a proper clergyman. He was described as being classically orthodox and Wesleyan. After Bishop Cannon called roll, he would glance down at the list and solicit the service of a student. AMr. Watts, would you open the class with prayer?@ The strong voice echoed the lecture hall with a deep ac-

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Watts

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cent rooted in the Southern heritage.

After glancing down to a marker where he had ended the prior lecture, he looked up and began his artistry of words. He used his notes only as a tool to remind him where the last session concluded. His gift was imagery. He carried us into a different culture describing the founder=s voices and dress and thoughts. When the course was complete not only did we know the history, but we could also describe the characters.

Rarely did he stray from the path of process and history, but I do remember one day with distinction. Deep into a discussion on the formation of the Methodist Episcopal Church, he wandered into the realm of titles and names. His commanding voice thundered his displeasure at the Emerging Conference labeling our church as "United." It was not so much the word as it was the connotation of that word. "A 'United' means we will try to be all things to all people and eventually we will be nothing to no one," he declared.

*Much to my dismay, his words became prophetic. We have arrived at that place. We have bent over backwards to please and appease so as to keep peace and to entice those on the outside to come inside. This is played out so plainly on Sunday morning. We have given up an order of worship so as to not make anyone uncomfortable. We have cast aside the anchor points of the faith, the prayers and creeds, to make room for more music and longer sermons. We have even changed the words that the early fathers and mothers so boldly declared for fear of someone misinterpreting its meaning. In the creed, the Aholycatholic church@ has been replaced with the word Auniversal@ because the other word seemed so - well - Catholic.***

Now I am experiencing the same struggle within the Emmaus Community. "Why do we have to ...?" is often echoed in team meetings and gatherings. "Let's just make this little change - what difference will it make?" Well, we might as well make the Ten Commandments the Six Commandments since we do not like a couple. Why not discard three of the Gospels - don't we just need one story of Jesus?

Recently, I entered the auditorium for Candlelight and was immediately struck by the clutter and mass on the stage. Now there may be times when we want clutter and mass, but on this occasion there was not a single Christian symbol in the setting. So, in my mind I perceived that someone (although not verbally, but spiritually) decided to leave Jesus off the stage.

It is a matter of identity. Once you begin to change this
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The Grapevine

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Being a Zebedee

By CAROLYN PHILLIPS
Community Coordinator

In 2011 and 2012 I had the privilege to go on a Baptist Medical Dental Missions International mission trip to Honduras. It was very humbling. The following was shared by Georgeanna Murphy last year to those who followed the team from home. Georgeanna was the bridge between the team and those who were at home. Her husband, Dr. Leigh Murphy, was one of the team leaders. If his name is familiar, he was a previous Community lay director and the Walk lay director for Walk 55. Dr. Leigh is leading the team who is in Villa Santa Honduras as I write this article. The following is a meditation that Georgeanna shared in her email last year and again this year. It is from the devotional publication, *Forward Day by Day*. I am praying for this mission team and I am praying for the June Walk that will start next week. We can leave our homes and serve or we can also stay behind and be Zebedees.

De Colores!
Carolyn

¹⁸ And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." ²⁰ They immediately left their nets and followed Him. ²¹ Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them, ²² and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him. ²³ And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people. ²⁴ Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them. ²⁵ Great multitudes followed Him—from Galilee, and from Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan. — Matthew 4:18 - 25

As we read about Jesus calling his disciples, our attention is naturally drawn to the dynamic between the caller and the respondents. But take a moment and cast an eye on Zebedee, the father of James and John, who was left in a boat full of unmended nets. We love stories of people being called to various ministries, and we gain much from those who are faithful to their vocations, the literal meaning of "calling." But for every disciple who marches off to serve, there is a Zebedee taking up the slack that their faithfulness left undone.

Give thanks today for the Zebedees of life — the spouses, parents, children, co-workers, supporters, friends, prayer partners, and teachers — who have made the discipleship of others possible. Give consideration to the fact that their supportive roles are no less a ministry than the work of those who play the more visible roles. As the song says, they are the wind beneath the wings of those who soar across life's story.

Zebedee must have said something like "Go ahead boys, I'll take care of the boat," which made the story and sainthood of James and John possible.

Part 1 of a Series

Sponsorship needs much thought

By **BILLY BELL**
Sponsorship Chairman
Huntsville Cluster

I was asked by our Cluster Lay Leader to do a presentation to our Cluster on good sponsorship. Good sponsorship is the most important job in Emmaus.

It's important because good sponsorship is your first act of agape before a Walk ever begins; the experience of the Walk for your pilgrim really starts with how you handle sponsorship. Our Alabama Emmaus Community leaders have placed an emphasis this year on sponsorship, so let's look at some of the basic principles of sponsorship.

The aim of a sponsor should not be to "get all my friends to go," to fill up the weekend, or to fix people's problems. Rather, the aim of the sponsor is

to bring spiritual revitalization to Christians who, in turn, will bring new life and vision to the work of the church in the congregation, home, workplace, and community. The aim of sponsorship is to build up the Body of Christ.

There are several qualities a prospective pilgrim should possess:

First, the person should already be on a spiritual journey, willing to grow and move forward in their journey of faith. Second, the person should have a Christian passion.

The pilgrim knows God can make and has made a difference in their life. Third, the person isn't so consumed by life's circumstances that they are unable to give full attention to the message and experience of Emmaus.

Remember, *Emmaus is right for many people - but*

Emmaus is not right for everyone.

How do we sponsor?

Pray for the person's openness to God's call, not for how to get him or her to go on a Walk.

Extend an invitation. Invite the person to attend for the sake of a closer relationship with Jesus Christ, not just an event to go to. Share your faith; and explain the basic elements of the Walk, its purpose, and follow-up activities. Take the attitude that you are offering the person a wonderful gift, rather than that they need to go.

(Editor's Note: This is the first part of a longer article about the importance of Sponsorship. Other parts will run in future issues of the Grapevine.)

Watts

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and that before you know it we do not look like ourselves anymore. We do certain things within an Emmaus Walk because that is "what you do" and "how you do it" in an Emmaus Walk.

Staying true to who we are makes us who we are. And for me, I want Emmaus to stay Emmaus.

***Our Hearts Strangely Warmed: A Practical Theology for Worship in the Wesleyan Tradition*

A Call to Reclaim Who We Are as a Wesleyan/Methodist People

D. Jonathan Watts, Ph.D./
Oxford Foundation Fellow
Publication forthcoming

**ANNUAL
OVERNIGHT
TRAINING EVENT
August 16 & 17**

Upcoming Walks

Walk	Date	Lay Director	Spiritual Director	Cluster	Board Rep
416	Aug 15-18	Lisa Holmes	Bob Muray	Cullman/Oneonta	Betty Fowler/ Missy Bissonnette
417	Sept 12-15	Judi Vick	Johnny Jordan	East Alabama	Butch Fennell/ Angel Rait
418	Sept 26-29	Rick Pearson	TBD	S Shelby	Neal Goza/ Ted Hagler
419	Oct 10-13	Linda Brocato	TBD	Shoals/Moulton/ Athens/Decatur	Lori Mills/Bill Jordan
420	Oct 24-27	Jimmy Gregg	TBD	Franklin/Hamilton/ Haleyville	Sheilah Wiginton/ Patricia Farr
421	Nov 7-10	Alice Edwards	TBD	Gadsden/Marshall/ Cherokee-Dekalb	Sam Chuckery/Judy Bonds



*Men's Walk

Reminder: Candlelight service begins at 7:45; Closing begins at 4:45.
Please remember that children are *not* to be present in Hutto or at meals during a walk!

**Alabama Emmaus Walk 417
September 12-15, 2013**

Lay Director	Judi Vick (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Director	Brenda Kent (Priority) Roberta Wyckoff (Fourth Day) Lisa Fornwalt Denise Buford Patrice Booth Judy Thompson
Spiritual Director	Johnny Jordan (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	Paul Vick (Prevenient Grace) Michael Russell (Justifying Grace) James Long (Sanctifying Grace) Carolyn Goza (Obstacles to Grace)
Music	Kay Jordan
Asst. Table Leaders	Stephanie Kirby (Priesthood) Debra Fennell (Study) Louise Tapley (Discipleship) Christine Cromer (Changing Our World) Stephanie Terrell (Christian Action) Kim Warren (Body of Christ) Dianne Wingfield (Life In Piety)
Table Leaders	Teresa Harris Dian Long Cathy Parker Susie Roush Judy Anderson Susan Vickers Katrina Upchurch
Board Rep.	Butch Fennell, Angel Rait
Committees	
Agape:	Dianne Scott 256-329-1000
Meal Service:	Larry Scott 256-329-1000
Refreshments:	Bill Goodwin 256-212-2090
72-Hour Prayer Vigil:	Beverly Murphy 256-404-7754
Housing:	David Roush 256-207-0578
Candlelight:	Wallis Wesson 256-245-7604
Clean-up:	Howard Fornwalt 256-207-0729
Closing:	David Burford 256-831-5259
Entertainment:	Chuck Terrell 256-267-1300
Follow-up:	Mary Ann Pate 256-245-6265
Speakers' Prayer Chapel:	Nedra Deerman 205-799-4114
Sponsors' Hour:	Wendy Bogan 256-377-1009
Worship:	Leigh Hall 256-872-0622
Photographer:	Deb Gregory 256-861-2000
Humble Servant:	Emmett Crowe 256-234-3152

Name	City	Sponsor
Beth Rhodarmer	Albertville	Sammi Kirkland & Natasha Tidmore
Rhonda Springfield	Albertville	Sammi Kirkland & Natasha Tidmore
Amber Harris	Attalla	David & Lisa Socha
Pat Herndon	Boaz	Stephney Gregg
Chris Gladney	Buhl	Pam & Lynn Gibson
Donna Hendrix	Crossville	Tammie Austin
Joann B. Clark	Danville	Melanie Danielowicz & Danielle Napier
Wendy Sullivan	Fayette	Dana Gilliam & Jaime Howard
Ashleigh Reade	Florence	Becky Fisher & Jennie Corley
Paula O'Barr	Glencoe	Christie Pickard, Karen Trippe & Brenda Morgan
Joyce Wilson	Guntersville	Ken Wilson
Nikki Gann	Leighton	Bill & Anne Deegan
Julie Moore	Muscle Shoals	Bill & Anne Deegan
Courtney Vincent	Oneonta	Julia Rudd
Kim Prater	Piedmont	Rhonda De Haven
Donna Goff	Rockford	Barbara & Fred Muenzmay
Jane Wade	Russellville	Bill & Anne Deegan
Jeanie Ogle	Sylacauga	Bobby & Anna McCain
Carolyn Etrass	Sylacauga	Chris & Amy Carden
Kay Gurley	Talladega	Brenda Kent
Norma Lemley	Tuscaloosa	Caroline Smith
Julie Finch	Tuscumbia	Bill & Anne Deegan
Cathy Debardeleben	Vestavia Hills	Ron & Libby Rabun

**Alabama Emmaus Community
ANNUAL OVERNIGHT TRAINING
EVENT
August 16 & 17**

- Friday Evening: Memorial Service & Songwriter's Session with Dove Award Winner Steve Jones & Bill Terry
- Great music, singing & training
- Cluster ideas for growth

**Registration deadline:
August 11, 2013**

THE PLACE FOR YOU TO BE!

**Alabama Emmaus Walk 418
September 26-29, 2013**

Lay Director	Rick Pearson (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Directors	Ronnie Lansford (Priority) Cliff Myers (Fourth Day) Butch Wildsmith Bill Rush Jim Morton Dave Roush
Spiritual Director	Don Wright (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	John Mount (Prevenient Grace) Bill Brown (Justifying Grace) TBA (Sanctifying Grace) TBA (Obstacles to Grace)
Music	Tom Carden
Asst. Table Leaders	TBA (Priesthood) Jack Mundy (Study) Rux Bentley (Discipleship) Byron Smith (Changing Our World) Wade Roskam (Christian Action) Jack Bailey (Body of Christ) Fred Clay (Life In Piety)
Table Leaders	Dan Anderson Gene Thraikill David Cox Ken Carpenter Jim Frazier Chris Cone Chuck Ferguson
Board Rep.	Neal Goza, Ted Hagler

Committees

Agape:	Charlotte Anderson 205-663-4761
Meal Service:	Jane Hagler 205-985-9608
Refreshments:	Denise Cone 205-836-2610
72-Hour Prayer Vigil:	Lisa Elliott 205-985-4051
Housing:	Pam Branham 205-681-1872
Candlelight:	TBA
Clean-up:	Bill Scholl 205-938-9256
Closing:	TBA
Entertainment:	TBA
Follow-up:	M. Linda Smith 205-901-9323
Speakers' Prayer Chapel:	Pam Townsend 205-678-2251
Sponsors' Hour:	Gene Rayfield 205-640-3131
Worship:	Carolyn Goza 205-510-6786
Photographer:	Larry Matthews 205-670-0700
Humble Servant:	Merrie Lynne Pearson 205-907-0948

Name	City	Sponsor
Anthony Rogue	Albertville	Freedom Christian Fellowship RG (Tabitha Bissonnette)
Chuck Pearson	Albertville	Kenneth Sanders
Richard Payne	Albertville	Asbury UMC RG (Phillip Edwards)
Dale Childress	Albertville	James Dennis Ryan
Ricky Morrow	Arab	Mike & Beverly Simpson
Barry Hickman	Athens	Frederick Martin
Jim Harris	Attalla	David & Lisa Socha
Jeff Albright	Birmingham	Jim Foster
Dick Trueb	Birmingham	LaVerne Bramer & Nancy Harper
Jimmy Burke	Boaz	Mt. Vernon E's (Ann Frazier)
Jason Morgan	Cherokee	Kendrick Burns
Reggie Hesterley	Cullman	Kerry Hanvey
Jeff Carter	Decatur	Dallas Culver
Brandon Price	Decatur	Charles Langham
Ed Corrigan	Florence	Mark & Jeanette Custer
Bruce Cleveland	Guntersville	Junior Plunkett
Josh Amos	Hartselle	Regina Gregory & Nickie Amos
Pat Lovell	Hartselle	Sherrie Hiett
Nate Harbin	Harvest	Glenn Stokes
Jackie Noblitt	Huntsville	Billy Bell & Mark Hedden
Tom Caldwell	Huntsville	Carol Foret
Tony Ricketts	Killen	Cecil Hudson
Patrick Patterson	Killen	Frank & Susan Patterson
Jarod Andrews	Lacys Spring	Debra Terrell
Chris McLeod	Madison	Julia Pack
Bill Chaffin	Madison	George Reed
Chris Thompson	Northport	Joe Powell
Jamey Wilson	Northport	Joe Powell
Ben Workman	Northport	Charles Bush
Elden Willingham	Northport	Don Odum
Don Berger	Northport	Charles & Lisa Bush
Brad Clem	Pinson	Tim, Mike & Terry Walker
Hubert Chapman	Pleasant Grove	Wendy Capps
Bill Maloney	Rogersville	Bill Watson
Phil Terrell	Rogersville	John Hudson
David Scruggs	Russellville	Ricky Hall & Alan Wilson
Dan Ambrosius	Springville	Donna Ambrosius and Ronnie & Teresa Harris
Chum Baker	Tuscaloosa	Cameron Cardwell & Chad Bottcher
John Maxwell	Tuscaloosa	Ray Hays & Bill Trick
Justin Riley	Tuscaloosa	Charles Bush
Kenneth Green	Union Grove	Tim & Stacey White

The Grapevine

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Newsletter of the Board of Directors of the Alabama Walk to Emmaus

Smith

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What do folks take away after they read you? When I first became involved in Church life, I did not pay much attention to the preacher.

I figured he was paid to say certain things and act a certain way. I was paying attention to what people in Sunday school said and how I saw them acting away from church. We cannot all be the apostle Paul or Mother Teresa. But, we can keep our eyes on the precepts of love and forgiveness.

We can find ways to preach by our actions. Become more involved in church, help feed the hungry, support activities that bring relief to third world nations or just be more kind to people we come in contact with doing your everyday business.

We live in a world full of down-to-earth issues. Concerns that threaten to overtake our Priesthood. Issues such as family matters, job related tension, finances, health and many others.

We sometimes feel overwhelmed by life. In these times a kind word and understanding gesture can do a lot of good. May times some of the best help we can do is just sit and listen.

Priesthood has many forms and attributes. God has given us all gifts to be used in our Priesthood. Opportunities to practice our gifts are abundant. If we stay open to the leadership of God, he will help us be the Priest we want to be.

**De Colores,
Bill Smith**

Praying for You

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to members of the Emmaus Community and their families in the loss of loved ones.

Renee Wright (345), for the loss of her mother, Lorene Scott and **Steven Wright (306)**, for the loss of his grandmother. The family of **Brooke Johnson (121)**

Keenna Osborn (127), for the loss of his wife, **Regina Osborn (126)** and **Wanda Clark (126)**, for the loss of her sister **Kay Allen (230)** for the loss of her father, William Guy Partridge

Connie Jackson (204), for the loss of her father, Grady Pemberton.

Deborah Whitten (214) for the loss of her husband, **Michael Whitten (227)**

Corinne Jones (74), for the loss of her husband, Lauran Austin Jones and **Sheilah Wiginton (83)**, for the loss of her father

Ella Goodwin (NAS) for the loss of her husband, **Bert Goodwin (NAS: RM)** and **Sue Meeks (47)**, Jimmy and Ray Goodwin for the loss of their brother

The family of **Carla Crosson (242)**

The family of **Brooke Johnson (121)**

Keena Osborn (127), for the loss of his wife, **Regina Osborn (126)** and **Wanda Clark (126)** for the loss of her sister